

Acton Historic District Commission
Meeting May 11, 2010
Minutes

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Meeting called to order at 7:35PM

TOWN CLERK, ACTON

Present were Kathy Acerbo-Bachman (KAB), Ron Rose (RR), Scott Kutil (SK), David Honn (DH), Michaela Moran (MM) (late), David Barrat (DB) and Mike Gowing (MG) (BoS liaison)

Welcome Ron Rose to the Commission

No Citizens Concerns.

MM wants to talk about the HC sign program. MM says that we need to have a Public Hearing as part of the approval process. SK has objections. MG said that some houses do not have a single style. KAB asked about identification signs and some are already put up. MM thought that all signs need to be reviewed. And signs that we are discussing are not excluded. KAB says that it fosters pride in homeownership. KAB said that the size of the plaques are large and may not fit "townwise". KAB said the signs are 65 and 62 River St for people to go look at. DB said the size of the sign seems large and distracting. Tomorrow's meeting with the HC will be to discuss this and the Woodbury Lane house.

8:05 pm ^{Adrian} (sp?) Goff, 498 Main St chimney reviewed. Applicant submitted opinions from engineer and mason. Mason said it's unsafe. Engineer said it was unsafe and needs to be rebuilt. RR suggested that he put in a support system from below. KAB said that it is an important part of the historic landscape and mentioned that Acton Center is on the national registry. And she wished the applicant would look to CPC funding.

Maya Minken joined the meeting at 8:40 pm

SK motioned to approve the application as written and DB seconded. Discussion. MM then moved to deny (?) the application and DB seconded. KAB added the amendment encouraging the applicant to seek CPC funding. DB, RR, MM, KAB voted yes. SK voted No. Maya abstained.

8:45 69-81 River St, an informal presentation. KAB recused herself and left the room. Dan Barton, Lou Levine, and Joe Levine (? Flannery?) attended. Dan Barton is the architect. MM passed out a package that contains a photo from across the street. Proposal to build 7 houses along River St. Shutters wood (?) on the front of the houses only. Dan Barton made a presentation of the packet that he brought. MM said that in the opposite streetscape, that the 40B was not under our review. MM said that the heights of the first 3 buildings are 33, 32, and 34 feet. MM said that she believes that we need a site visit where all of the members of the commission can attend. MM said that the next meeting is the 25th, and can we meet at the site before then?

MM asked about the trim sizes and shapes that are on the properties are similar to the other properties. Dan said that it is all flatstock (?) trim. Garage door is the same make as we approved before without the diagonal.

Dan Barton is available at 6:30 Wed 19th for site visit. Site visit is scheduled. Joe said that he could show where the lot lines are. Thursday is a raindate for the meeting. SK asked if the windows are wood.

RR mentioned the house with the garage. TF asked about the measurements on the detail page. Maya asked about the glass door. Dan said that they are all at the rear.

8:30 WAVE application. Michael Rosenfeld, Mathias and architect.

Michael brought out the issues: bay windows, height of lights, stone steps, and railing on handicapped ramp. Michael showed us four options for the bay windows. Mathias made comments. SK argued for

option 1 or 2. KAB asked for the original door or window version and a redesign. KAB said that we don't have to approve any of the options.

TF said that "form follows function." We took a straw poll and the French Doors option was favored.

6 in. (?) posts were favored. Smaller railings, and rough granite were favored, given the options.

RR made some suggestions about landscaping.

10:30 pm Joe Picardi (~~SK~~) 427 Main St. Sally and Joe Picardi were present. Andersen windows, simulated divided lights, exterior appearance from the street will be maintained. Trim will be maintained. DB asked if the spec sheet in (?). SK motioned to accept application with the condition that either the new window will have a historic sill, or the owner will reuse the existing historic sill, and an equivalent size window with the finding that the storms be removed. TF seconded. [TF note: weren't specific measurements noted?] Approved unanimously, pending abutter notifications. DB is liaison.

"Clean up" meeting on May 24th. Monday 7:30.

MM asked about approving the River St foundations before the rest of the project details.

Commission felt that we do not approve of the HC sign proposal. We will not give a blanket approval. Our position is that if an owner wants to put up a sign, they need to come to us with an application.